

Roads to Success

is a new program designed to help middle and high school students prepare for their futures. This newsletter will keep you posted on what we're doing in school, and how families can follow through at home.

For more information about Roads to Success, please visit our website: www.roadstosuccess.org.

Did you know?

Thinking about a career in the skilled trades? Apprenticeships are a great way to earn while you learn. But be prepared for competition and standardized tests. In New York City, only 1 out of 10 applicants gets an apprenticeship as an electrician. That is more competitive than some top colleges!

High School Testing

To a sophomore, high school graduation may seem far away. But there are plenty of things your student can do now to prepare for college and careers. Beginning in 10th grade, taking college admissions tests is one of them.

Many colleges rely on test scores to compare students who want to attend. Students who do well on admissions tests will have more colleges to choose from. Here's what you need know:

Why? This test prepares students for the SAT and shows skills to work on. Scholarship money may also be available for students who do well on the exam.



When? The SAT and the ACT are both offered in the spring of 11th grade and can be taken again at later dates. Please see your school counselor for a complete list of test dates.

Why? Many colleges require one or both of these tests for admission into their schools. While these tests are not the only factor, they are important.

The PSAT

What? The PSAT, Preliminary SAT, is a practice test for the SAT. There are five sections: two reading, two math and one writing section.

When? October of 10th grade and then again in October of 11th grade.

The SAT and ACT.

What? The SAT and the ACT are admissions tests required by many colleges. Students may take one or both tests depending on what colleges they are applying to. Both tests include math and reading sections.

Other Tests.

What? Tests to get a job or get ahead in the job you have.

When? When applying for a job or promotion.

Why? Whether you want to join the Army, deliver packages for FedEx, or something in between, tests are often part of the selection process.

Grade by Grade

Roads to Success students get basic information about the PSAT and learn a few strategies for improving their scores. This is not the type of test you can cram for, but there are things students can do to improve their scores and confidence for the test.

Building Word Power. Learn a new word each day with websites like these:

- <http://education.yahoo.com/college/wotd/>
- <http://www.number2.com/exams/sat/daily/word>

Math Prep. Paying attention in math class and completing math homework are two great ways to master geometry and algebra skills.

SAT Prep Online. The College Board website includes information on both the PSAT and the SAT along with practice questions and tests: <http://www.collegeboard.com/testing>.